

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 and 7-10 are pending in the present application. Claim 6 is canceled and Claims 1, 7, and 8 are amended by the present amendment. It is believed no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to; Claims 1, 5 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over German Patent No. DE 29923396 (herein "German '396") in view of United States Patent No. 5,918,841 to Sweere et al. (herein "Sweere"); Claims 2-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over German '396 in view of United States Patent No. 1,933,210 to Curtis; and Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over German '396 in view of United States Patent No. 4,566,741 to Eriksson et al. (herein "Eriksson").

Applicants and applicants' representatives gratefully acknowledge the courtesy of a personal interview with Examiner Tran on July 13, 2004. During the interview, differences between the claimed invention and references in the prior art were discussed. Formal agreement regarding patentability of the claims was not reached. Comments discussed during the interview are reiterated below.

Regarding the objection to the drawings, the specification is amended to clearly identify the horizontal axis 22 shown in Figure 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 5 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over German '396 in view of Sweere. Applicants respectfully traverse that rejection with respect to the claims as currently amended.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a work table including a vertical central column fastened to a base on a vertical central axis of the base. The work table also includes a height-adjustable and tilt-adjustable work surface, which is fastened to a support element. A joint seating device is provided on an upper end of the vertical central column, and a swivel arm is arranged to pivot around a horizontal axis of the joint seating device. The swivel arm contains another rotary joint, about whose horizontal axis the support element and the work surface are arranged in a pivoting manner. The work table also includes a cable pull arranged for synchronous rotational coupling between the swivel arm and the support element such that the support element is aligned horizontally when the swivel arm is aligned vertically and the support element is tilted when the swivel arm is aligned horizontally.

In a non-limiting example, Figures 1 and 2 illustrate a work table with a vertical central column 5 fastened to the center of base 6 (e.g., on a vertical central axis of base 6). In this example, the work table also includes an adjustable work surface 3, which is fastened to support element 9. A joint seating device 7 is attached to the top of vertical central column 5, and a swivel arm 4, pivots around a horizontal axis of the joint seating device 7. The support element 9 and the work surface 3 also pivot horizontally around a rotary joint 19. Further, as shown in the examples of Figures 3-5, the work table includes a cable pull 10 arranged to provide a synchronous rotational coupling between the swivel arm 4 and the work surface 3 attached to support element 9. Thus, support element 9 is aligned horizontally when swivel arm 4 is aligned vertically, as in Figure 5, and support element 9 is tilted when swivel arm 4 is aligned horizontally.

This arrangement advantageously allows a user to work comfortably in a seated or reclined position using a tilted work surface, or in a standing position with a flat surface, as illustrated in Figures 3-5.

As discussed during the interview, none of the references cited in the outstanding Office Action teach or suggest a cable pull that provides a synchronous rotational coupling between a swivel arm and a support element, as in the claimed invention. Ericksson discloses a supervisory desk that includes electrical cables 42 that may be arranged through a protective housing 46. Further, Ericksson discloses that “full movement of the adjustable legs, from one limiting position to the other causes only a relatively small movement of the cables 42.”¹ Thus, Ericksson discloses a protective housing for electrical cables that do not provide any mechanical coupling, which is different than the claimed arrangement in which a cable pull provides rotational coupling. Hence, applicants respectfully submit that the references in the outstanding Office Action do not teach or suggest “a cable pull arranged for synchronous rotational coupling between the swivel arm and the support element,” as in amended Claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom are allowable.

Claims 2-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over German '396 in view of Curtis and Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over German '396 in view of Eriksson. Applicants respectfully traverse those rejections.

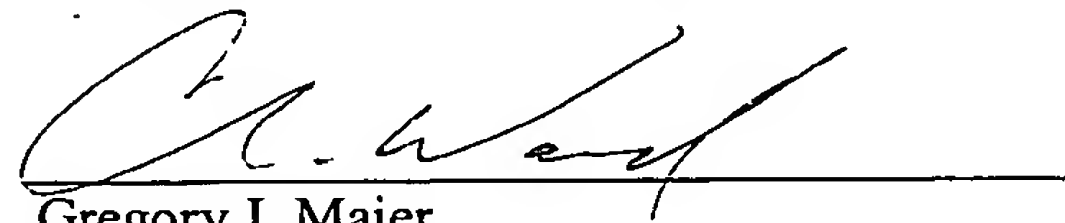
Claims 2-4, 6 and 7 depend upon independent Claim 1, which as discussed above is believed to be allowable. Further, as discussed above, none of the applied references teach or suggest the features of the independent claim. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested those rejections also be withdrawn.

¹ Ericksson at column 5, lines 24-26.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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